

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

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Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for use in managing a network system provided with plural a plurality of information processing apparatus to apparatuses to each of which is connected [[is]] a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the network, the said information apparatus comprising:

management means for managing the information of a shared device present in said the network system;

reception means for receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

transmission means for transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the own said information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on said the network system; and

renewal means for renewing the changing information on a status or a connected condition of the shared device [[in]] displayed on a display of said information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by said management means, based on the information received by said reception means.

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Claim 2 (original): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said group.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to said the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of said another the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted, at the log-on to said the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in said the network system.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after said the change.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, at the log-on to said the network system,

[[to]] automatically to transmit the information of the shared device connected to the own said information processing apparatus.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another the other information processing apparatus in said management means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in informing the other information processing apparatus of the information of the shared device connected to the own said information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus, [[to]] selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said the network system or a second method for transmission to another the other information processing apparatus through said the network system.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An information processing method for use in managing a network system provided with pluralt a plurality of information processing apparatus to apparatuses, including a first information processing apparatus, to each of which is connected [[is]] a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other that can be used by another

A2 information processing apparatus through the information processing network, the method comprising:

    a management step, of managing the information of a shared device present in said the network system by management means;

    a reception step, of receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

    a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the own a first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on said the network system; and

    a renewal step, of renewing the changing information on a status of a connected condition of the shared device in said displayed on a display of the first information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by the management means, based on the information received [[by]] in said reception step.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said the reception means performs processing that includes a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said the group.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on

of another information processing apparatus to said the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of said the another information processing apparatus.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to said the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in said the network system.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after said the change.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the [[own]] first information processing apparatus.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another the other information processing apparatus in said the management means.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the [[own]] first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus, [[to]] selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said the network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said the network system.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer readable memory which stores a program to be executed by a computer of an information processing apparatus for use in managing a network system provided with plurat a plurality of information processing apparatus to apparatuses, including a first information processing apparatus, to each of which is connected [[is]] a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other that can be used by another information processing apparatus through the network, the said information processing program comprising:

a management step, of managing the information of a shared device present in said the network system, using [[by]] management means;

a reception step, of receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

a transmission step, of transmitting the information of a shared device connected to own the first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus on said the network system; and

a renewal step, of renewing the changing information on a status or a connected condition of the shared device in said displayed on a display of the first information processing apparatus in accordance with the information managed by the management means, based on the information received [[by]] in said reception step.

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Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception means step includes a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said the group.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to said the network system and receiving the information of the shared device of said another the other information processing apparatus.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to said the network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in said the network system.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own first information processing apparatus, to transmit information on the status after said the change.

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Claim 22 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to said the network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the own first information processing apparatus.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said the network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another the other information processing apparatus in said the management means.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the other information processing apparatus of the information of the shared device connected to the own first information processing apparatus to another information processing apparatus, [[to]] selectively to execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said the network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said the network system.